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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

26 APR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Amo Houghton
House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Houghton:

This is in reply to your letter of April 12, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Eugene Johnson, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals, plus a discussion paper released March 1, 1993.

We are sensitive to the needs of users of private land mobile radio spectrum and the impact that these proposals may have on their radio systems. We will endeavour to protect all private land mobile radio systems, including those operated by public safety entities. Your letter will be included in the record of this proceeding and will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in the proceeding.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Jacobs

Edward R. Jacobs
Deputy Chief, Land Mobile and
Microwave Division

Enclosures

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Congressional

AMO HOUGHTON
31ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 12, 1993

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OFFICE OF
TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

The Honorable James Quello
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear James:

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Eugene Johnson, Highway Superintendent of the Town of Busti which is in my district. He is concerned about FCC PR Docket No. 92-235 which relates to "spectrum refarming". Any help on this would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions on this or need any additional information, please contact Su-san Lancon on my staff.

All the best,


Amo Houghton

AH/sl
Enclosures

Work Order 130442 2/23/93

Supervisor
DALE CHARLES ROBBINS



MAR 17 1993

C.D.J.

Councilmen
GEORGE F. MATHEWS
MARK J. TARBRAKE
JOSEPH A. CATENATI

ew FCC Rule Proposals Destined to Change the Communications Operations and Budgets of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical People "Most Comprehensive Review" Since '30s, Agency Says

Comments due early next year on proposals to "Split" radio channels, re-group services, and lead users below 800

ing proposed.

Technological advances in recent years have made this step again overdue,

decisions will be in comments to be filed early next year in response to the FCC's proposals. For Fire, Rescue, and

mention of proposed changes for those operating on "pooled" public safety frequencies above 800 MHz. Out of about 74,000 licensees in the five services which make up the present "Public Safety" category, about 3,500 (or just under 5%) use frequencies in that range of the spectrum as well as channels below 512 MHz.

2200-3100 New Channels Possible

The FCC says its channel splitting proposals would gain from 2200 to 3100 new channels in the 150-170, 450-470, and 470-512 MHz bands in different areas of the country, with the amount of gain depending on the specific areas.

well.

"Although the current rules for the bands in use longest have been amended often," it said, "they remain based on much earlier technologies and regulatory concepts ... Many PLMR channels are unacceptably crowded and rules for certain bands are unacceptably archaic and convoluted."

The FCC's present Part 90 rules, which would be replaced by a new Part 88 under the new proposals, cover the Public Safety (Fire, Police, Highway Maintenance, Forestry Conservation, and Local Government) Radio Services; the Industrial (Power, Petroleum, Forest Products, Motion Picture, Relay Press, Special Industrial, Business, Manufac-

spectrum efficiency standards to increase capacity. These standards would generally reduce channel spacing to 6.25 KHz or less, creating 2200-3100 new channels depending on the geographic market, while providing technical flexibility. To ease the transition to spectrum efficient technology, the Commission is proposing a two-stage process that provides many years for existing systems to fully convert to narrowband or similarly efficient technology.

(In the 421-512 MHz band, the two-step channel splitting process proposed would ultimately produce four 6.25 KHz channels out of each present 25 KHz channel in the band. In the 150-174 MHz band, the two-step process would pro-

Continued from page 8

Part 88 would eliminate more than 500 rules and footnotes which are not contained in Part 90 of the Rules.

The Commission's stated intent that the proposed changes would "improve quality of service without imposing unreasonable burdens on present or future licensees," of course, will be a matter for study and interpretation by those responding to the NPRM.

The page-and-a-half initial announcement by the FCC can hardly be expected to cover all of the issues raised in the NPRM. The full text of the document adopted by the FCC Commissioners at its October 8 agenda meeting numbers some 400 pages. The text itself was expected to be released to the public in early November.

Publication of a summary of the NPRM in the Federal Register is expected to trigger a 120-day time period during which the document can be analyzed and comments filed with the FCC. These procedural steps will probably translate into a comment-filing deadline in next March.

The FCC estimates that there are currently some 16,000,000 private land mobile radios in use in the United States, most of which would fall outside the public safety category proposed by the Commission and in the categories identified as "Non-Commercial" and "Specialized Mobile Radio."

Impact On Frequency Coordination

Commercial and the Specialized Mobile Radio services, and between the services which constitute the overall Public Safety category. The new frequency coordination system of IMSA/IAFC (described in another article in this issue of the *IMSA JOURNAL*) is designed specifically to facilitate such expanded sharing between the various public safety services.

A computer study conducted in June 1992 for IMSA by Communications Engineering Technology, Inc. (CET) showed that the numbers of licenses in each of the five Public Safety services using frequencies below 800 MHz were: Local Government, 27,688; Fire, 19,604; Police, 19,104; Highway Maintenance, 4,253; and Forestry-Conservation, 1,236. In addition, there were some 22,000 licensees of systems in the Special Emergency Radio Service, including many systems not involved with Emergency Medical operations.

Tables resulting from that study, showing the number of licensees in the Fire, Local Government, and Special Emergency Radio Services in the 25-50, 150-170, 450-470, and 470-512 MHz bands in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, accompany this *IMSA JOURNAL* story. The tables show the number of licensees in each of the services in each of the bands. The typical licensee, such as a large fire department, of course, can have a number of frequencies and many stations licensed for its use.

STATE	Fire Radio Service (Cont.)			Totals
	25-50	150-170	450-470	
NH	60	164	16	2
NJ	288	332	32	6
NM		172	16	1
NY	916	272	96	17
NC	108	612	52	7
ND	2	56	8	
OH	560	680	80	1
OK	2	240	4	
OR	12	292	20	
PA	1300	292	36	1
RI	28	64	8	
SC	28	156	24	
SD	1	48	4	
TN	28	208	48	
TX	180	768	56	
UT	1	52	8	
VT	20	144	12	
VA	144	128	36	
WA	8	452	36	
WV	124	86	20	
WI	116	484	16	
WY	1	40		
PR&VI	1	1		
Totals	5,209	13,125	1,204	15
	27%	67%	6%	

Local Government Radio Service (As of June 1992)

STATE	25-50	150-170	450-470	T
AL	32	372	136	
AK	4	112	32	
AZ	20	192	64	
AR	88	232	84	
CA	172	668	356	
CO	32	256	92	
CT	64	206	72	
DE	3	24	8	
DC	1	4	4	
FL	116	476	204	
GA	112	464	148	
HI	1	32	8	
ID	12	140	36	
IL	172	1016	232	
IN	7	548	128	
IA	72	412	132	

Continued from page 10

Local Government Radio Service (Cont.)

STATE	25-50	150-170	450-470	Totals
VA	220	228	156	604
WA	40	392	176	608
WV	52	152	72	276
WI	140	388	172	700
WY	8	114	28	180
PR&VI	5	120	26	151
Totals	4,427	17,193	5,846	27,466
	16%	62%	21%	

Special Emergency Radio Service
(As of June 1992)

STATE	25-50	150-170	450-470	Totals
AL	12	216	60	288
AK	4	76	4	84
AZ	24	120	148	292
AR	20	192	24	196
CA	224	920	376	1520
CO	52	208	96	356
CT	96	152	28	276
DE	8	20	4	32
DC	3	12	4	19
FL	32	240	216	520
GA	32	304	96	432
HI	4	8	4	16
ID	16	148	20	184
IL	144	1128	260	1532
IN	68	436	92	596
IA	176	344	44	564
KS	71	256	72	399
KY	80	308	64	452
LA	20	208	68	296
ME	12	164	16	192
MD	48	88	32	168
MA	76	260	64	400
ME	84	568	160	812
MN	104	604	52	760
MS	60	156	32	248
MO	76	384	80	540
MT	12	220	28	260
NE	84	188	40	312
NV	12	40	16	68
NH	20	104	4	128
NJ	140	444	48	632
NM	12	64	36	112
NY	306	744	180	1230
NC	136	572	84	792
ND	8	228	8	244
OH	168	736	224	1128
OK	28	252	52	332
OR	24	204	48	276
PA	184	596	164	964
RJ	16	40	4	60
SC	12	176	16	204
SD	20	112	8	140
TN	92	412	60	564
TX	156	736	288	1180
UT	12	96	32	140
VT	16	76	8	100
VA	76	356	192	624
WA	56	308	60	424
WV	32	152	28	212
WI	128	456	60	644
WY	4	72	36	112
PR&VI	6	35	7	48
Totals	3,306	14,899	3,869	22,074
	15%	67%	18%	

Fire, Local Government & Emergency Licenses in 470-512 MHz Band*
(As of June 1992)

STATE	Fire	Local Government	Spec Emerg
CA	16	48	4
CT		1	
DE		1	
DC		2	
FL	1	10	
IL		4	
MD		12	
MA	24	16	
NJ	16	40	
NY	4	24	1
PA	1	32	
TX	4	24	
VA		8	
Totals	66	222	5

*Frequencies in this band are available of the Private Land Mobile Radio varying degrees only in 13 metropolitan areas of the United States, on a shared basis with television stations.

This article was written in mid-1992, before the November 3 election. The FCC proposals are not just partisan politics, an incumbent administration, even the same party, will often call for a "hold" rather than regulatory proceedings. government positions are just being formed in the new administration and get a look at things in perspective. Whether the FCC's PR D 92-235 falls victim to this pattern remains to be seen. The same rule applies to the FCC's emergency Medical Radio Service, which had been scheduled for implementation by the FCC early in 1993 but has been rescheduled for late in 1993.

INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL SIGNAL ASSOCIATION
165 E. Union St.
P.O. Box 539
Newark, N.Y. 14513

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requirements are presented in the extensively revised 1993 Edition of NFPA 70, National Electrical Code. The document provides for the safeguarding of people and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity. Used in every state, the NEC is the industry standard for electrical safety.

The first NEC was published in 1897 by the National Board of Fire Underwriters (NBFU).

For more information call John Reynolds at NFPA: 617-984-7274.